

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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STATE FOR CU/EE; VIENNA FOR RPO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED STAG GRANT FOR ELLIOTT CARTER

REF: A) BUCHAREST 1896; B) BUCHAREST CPP; C) USINFO OF JUNE 6

POST APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT INTEREST IN CONSIDERING STAG GRANT FOR COMPOSER ELLIOTT CARTER FOR PARTICIPATION IN NOVEMBER AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL PROGRAM. THIS YEAR'S MUSIC FESTIVAL, FOLLOWING IN STEPS OF THREE PREVIOUS MUSIC WEEKS WHICH HAVE DRAWN LARGE AUDIENCES INCLUDING ROMANIA'S MOST PROMINENT COMPOSERS, CONDUCTORS, PERFORMERS AND CRITICS, SEEKS TO PRESENT VARIETY OF QUALITY AMERICAN MUSICAL EXPRESSION IN CLASSICAL, JAZZ, COUNTRY AND BROADWAY FILM MUSIC. THE MUSIC FESTIVAL PROGRAM IS ONE OF THE POST'S MORE AMBITIOUS, SUCCESSFUL AND COSTLY ANNUAL POST PROGRAMS. THE 1974 AMERICAN MUSIC WEEK FEATURED WEEK-LONG VISIT OF PROMINENT U.S. CONTEMPORARY COMPOSER, GEORGE GRUMB AND ONE OF HIS LEADING INTERPRETERS, DAVID BURGE. SUCCESS OF CRUMB/BURGE VISIT FOR PROGRAMMING IN CLUJ AS WELL AS BUCHAREST - VISITS TO COMPOSERS UNION, CONSERVATORIES, TELEVISION INTERVIEWS, ETC. - LED POST TO PROPOSE INVITATION TO MR. CARTER.

2. FEBRUARY 10 EDITION OF "TIME" RAN PAGE-LONG PIECE ON CARTER'S IMPACT ON CONTEMPORARY MUSIC AND STATES, "AFTER THE DEATH OF STRAVINSKY IN 1971, CARTER EMERGED AS THE MOST UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPORTANT COMPOSER IN THE U.S." A PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AT

CORNELL AND JUILLIARD, MR. CARTER IS 66 YEARS OLD, RECEIVED B.A. AND M.A. FROM HARVARD, HAS RECEIVED HONORARY DOCTORATES FROM HARVARD, PRINCETON AND NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY AMONG OTHERS. RECEIVED PULITZER PRIZES IN 1960, 1973. WAS A GUGGENHEIM FELLOW ON TWO OCCASIONS AND HAS HAD WORKS COMMISSIONED BY THE N.Y. PHILHARMONIC AND LOUISVILLE SYMPHONIES AMONG OTHERS. HE HAS WRITTEN WORKS FOR STRING QUARTETS, ORCHESTRA AND PIANO. CRITICS, COMPOSERS AND PERFORMERS ALIKE RECOGNIZE CARTER AS A PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC SCENE AND FEEL THAT HE IS ONLY NOW RECEIVING RECOGNITION HE DESERVES FOR WORKS COMPOSED DURING THE PAST THREE DECADES. THE AMERICAN BRASS QUINTET PERFORMED ONE CARTER PIECE IN THE LIBRARY IN MAY AND THE PHILARTE STRING QUARTET (RECENT VISITORS) STRONGLY ENDORSED OUR EFFORTS TO ARRANGE A CARTER VISIT.

3. COMPOSERS QUARTET HAS BEEN CONTRACTED TO PERFORM SOME OF CARTER'S WORKS HERE DURING MUSIC FESTIVAL. CARTER WOULD ALSO VISIT ROMANIAN MUSICAL INSTITUTIONS AND PARTICIPATE IN ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL COMPOSERS. IF TIME ALLOWS A PROVINCIAL CITY VISIT MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED. REPRESENTATIONAL EVENTS IN HIS HONOR WILL ALLOW EMBASSY OFFICIALS OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH THE IMPORTANT ARTS COMMUNITY.

4. POST REQUESTS GRANT TO COVER MR. CARTER'S EUROPEAN TRAVEL (WE BELIEVE LONDON-BUCHAREST ROUND-TRIP), PER DIEM FOR UP TO FIVE DAYS AND HONORARIUM. FESTIVAL DATES ARE NOVEMBER 10-14 AND WE WOULD LIKE CARTER TO ARRIVE BY NOVEMBER 11.
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